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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. FURUSAWA et al.

Appl. No. : 09/696,178

Filed : October 26, 2000

For : ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Art Unit: 3737

Examiner: Qaderi

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 18, 2002, in which the three month shortened statutory period for responding runs to March 18, 2003, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated below. A marked up copy of the claims is attached hereto as "APPENDIX A - MARKED UP CLAIMS".

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 2.

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1 (Amended). An endoscope system, comprising:

a light guide including a plurality of optical paths;